

## REMARKS

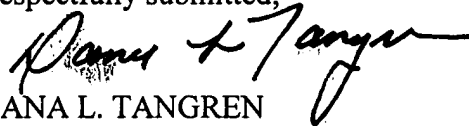
By this Preliminary Amendment, applicant has amended the specification by incorporating appropriate section titles. An Abstract of the Disclosure has also been added. The added abstract is supported by the abstract of the International Application to which the present national application claims priority. As required, a copy of the abstract is also attached hereto on a separate sheet of paper. Claim 6 has been amended to remove the multiple dependency recited therein. New claim 19 is supported by original claim 6. In view of the forgoing, applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the specification and the claims do not introduce new matter, and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.

In view of the forgoing, claims 1-19 are presented to the Examiner for consideration on the merits.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A universal hose clamp, as claimed in [claims 4 and 5] claim 4, wherein the securing means is a locking mechanism adapted to lockably engage the hose locating mechanism to the support structure, wherein the locking mechanism comprises a male and female member that are adapted to lockably engage.

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